

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 11870 161056Z

ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7324

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 11870

NODIS

DELIVER AT OPENING OF BUSINESS JULY 16

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, CD, US

SUBJ: MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CHAD

REF STATE 166492,

1. DEPT ALREADY AWARE FROM PREVIOUS MESSAGES OF SADAT'S DEEP CONCER ABOUT CHADIAN SITUATION AND HIS APPEAL TO US TO PROVIDE MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO PRES MALLOUM, EITHER DIRECTLY OR THROUGH EGYPT AND/OR SUDAN. WE HAVE TOLD HIM OF CHADIAN VP'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON AND HE WILL BE ANXIOUSLY WAITING TO HEAR WHAT COMES OUT OF THAT VISIT. PRESS REPORTS HE HAS BEEN IN TELEPHONIC CONTACT WITH FRENCH PRES GISCARD AND KING HASSAN OF MOROCCO YESTERDAY TO DISCUSS, AMONG OTHER THINGS, CHADIAN SITUATION.

2. SADAT WOULD CERTAINLY AGREE THAT LIBYAN VIOLATION OF CHAD'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY SETS AN UNDESIRABLE PRECEDENT, THOUGH HE WOULD REGARD THIS AS SOMETHING OF AN UNDERSTATEMENT. HE WOULD REGARD IDEA OF CONVOKING A MEETING OF "FRIENDS OF CHAD" TO EXAMINE WAYS IN WHICH EACH MIGHT HELP AS AN EVASION OF WHAT HE CONSIDERS TO BE OUR RESPONSIBILITY AS A SUPERPOWER TO ASSIST CHAD. NEVERTHELESS, I WOULD EXPECT THAT HE

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WOULD AUTHORIZE GOE PARTICIPATION. HE HAS ALREADY SENT SMALL ARMS TO CHAD, SPECIFICALLY 1,000 RILFES WITH AMMO AS WELL AS MORTAR AMMO. HE HAS APPARENTLY ALSO PROVIDED ONE "AIR DEFENSE DIVISION", WHATEVER THAT MAY MEAN. THIS EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN DELIVERED IN THREE COMMERCIAL AIR TRANSPORTS CONCEALED IN CRATES WITH RED CROSS MARKINGS. SADAT MAY BE PREPARED TO PROVIDE SOME ADDITIONAL SMALL ARMS, BUT FACT IS THAT HIS

MILITARY LARDER IS RUNNING OUT. AS FAHMY SAID TO ME YESTERDAY, GOE IS PROVIDING SMALL AMRS TO SOMALIA, CHAD, TANZANIA, SUDAN (AND PERHAPS OTHERS), BUT IT SIMPLY CANNOT GO ON DOING SO IN THE CONTINUED ABSENCE OF SOME REPLACEMENTS. HE WAS MAKING HIS POINT IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR CONTINUING UNWILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE SOME ARMS FOR DESPATCH TO THREATENED MODERATE AFRICAN REGIMES.

3. PROVISION BY US OF NON-LETHAL EQUIPMENT WOULD BE WELCOMENED BY GOE, BUT WILL BE CONSIDERED INADEQUATE. SADAT WOULD BE DELIGHTED IF USG WOULD PARTICIPATE WITH OTHER GOVTS IN PROVISION OF ARMS TO CHAD AND, IF WE WISH, WOULD DOUBTLESS URGE FRENCH OR OTHERS TO TAKE THE LEAD.

4. ANY WILLINGNESS ON OUR PART TO AUTHORIZE TRANSFER OF US-ORIGIN MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM ONE OR MORE THIRD COUNTRIES TO CHAD WOULD ALSO BE WELCOMED. SHOULD BE CONSIDER IT NECESSARY, SADAT WOULD DOUBTLESS BE WILLING TO URGE SAUDIS, JORDANIANS OR ZAIRIANS TO COOPERATE WITH US IN THIS REGARD.
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